

SUBJECTS.

locality made it very desirable to have a Higher Grade Secondary School at Alwaye. The town was situated centrally for the taluks of Alengad, Kunnathnad, Moovattupuzha and Thodupuzha, all of which were backward in point of education. The nearest Higher Grade Secondary School was at Parur, at a distance of 10 miles from Alwaye. The unhealthy nature of that town and the want of a hostel attached to the school afforded the least temptation for pupils from other parts to go and live in Parur to prosecute their studies. That a sufficient number of pupils could be had if a Higher Grade Secondary School were started at Alwaye was proved by the successful working of the local St. Mary's Higher Grade Secondary School. Within one year of its existence its strength rose to 400. The Member therefore requested that the Lower Grade Secondary School at Alwaye should be raised to the Higher Grade. It meant time and an enormous initial expenditure for the acquisition of site and the construction of a suitable building. If the Government were not prepared to undertake it at present, he suggested, as an alternative, the recognition of the existing St. Mary's Higher Grade Secondary School. He added that the building, staff of teachers, accommodation, school books, appliances etc., at present in the school, satisfied the conditions of the Code. The school was also conducted on non-sectarian lines. If that were done, the Departmental Lower Grade Secondary School at Alwaye could be conveniently shifted to Edappalli, where the people were crying for one for the last so many years and the initial expenditure for starting a Higher Grade Secondary School at Alwaye would be saved to the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

131. The establishment of a Lower Grade Secondary School at Munambom.

Mr. P. K. Kochuvava (Member, Nominated) said that there was no school of any kind at Munambom. There was an English school conducted by a church fund which was no longer in existence. The want of a school there was being very badly felt. He therefore prayed that a Lower Grade Secondary School be opened at Munambom with a teacher to teach the Arabic language. He added that Government sites were available for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

VIII.—Religious and Charitable Institutions.

132. Certain defects in the recent Devaswom reforms.

Mr. G. Venkatarama Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Vaikom) thanked the Government for having paid the deepest attention and consideration to the important question of Devaswoms and their management. While he appreciated many of the wholesome provisions of the G. O. re-organising the Devaswoms, he objected to the following, *viz.*, (1) the change in the long-standing Devaswom policy of the Government necessitated by political events, (2) the separation of the Devaswom properties at present, (3) the reduction in the *purathepaditharams* with regard to the most important temples, and (4) the stopping of all expenditure in certain temples. He also laid stress on the necessity for a popular element in the management of the Devaswoms.